Survey of the mentaly disordered/retarded persons in the country

280. SHRI RAOOF VALILULLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by Government to find out as to what percentage of the people in the country suffered from serious mental disorders, mental retardation and minor mental disorders;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to initiate a systematic survey of the same-

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) No country-wise survey of cases of mental disorders has been carried out so far. There is no proposal at hand to undertake any such survey in near future. As regards survey of cases of mental retardation, the Deptt. of Welfare has informed that the National Sample Survey Organisation during 28th round in 1973-74 had conducted a survey of the number of mentally retarded in the country and according to the findings of that survey 0.54 persons for every 1000 were found to be suffering from mental retardation. Regarding initiating a systematic survey of cases of mentally retarded they have informed that as the identification of mentally retarded persons is a skilled job requiring trained enumerators, it may be difficult to find sufficient number of trained enumerators for this purpose.

Amendment of Dowry Prohibition Act

281. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to further amend the Dowry Prohibiton Act; and

(b) if so, what are its objectives and by when the legisaltion is proposed to be brought before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration. There have been discussions regarding amending this act, with women MPs and representatives of Voluntary Organisations, to make the Act more stringent.

Major cities not covered by Indian Airlines

282. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of major cities; in the country still not covered by Indian Airlines;

(b) whether there is any plan of network facilities and services of Indian Airlines to cover all the urban centres of the country; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) Indian Airlines at present operates to 64 domestic stations.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines plans to cover other cities depending upon the availability of infrastructural facilities and adequate capacity and traffic potential.

Time bound programme for family planning

283. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any time bound Programme for family planning;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether voluntary agencies are likely to be associated with this programme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c). Government has laid down specific